

Issues to be Addressed



The “Active Together” Master Plan establishes recommended action plans that identify current and future needs and steps to be taken to achieve them. Some of the key direction areas of the Plan include:

- establishing a preferred strategy for the provision and distribution of library facilities, in concert with future community centre development wherever possible;
- determining the major components, timing, and general locations for multi-use community centre facilities
- it is crucial to note that intensification is an issue that the City is attempting to address (especially relating to parkland dedication)
- quantifying outdoor facility needs (e.g. soccer fields, ball diamonds, skateboard parks, off-leash areas, playgrounds, etc.) and giving consideration to areas of geographic under-supply;
- identifying gaps in parkland provision and options addressing future parkland needs;
- ensuring that appropriately located sites are secured for required future parks and facilities;
- recognizing the impact that a growing – but aging and increasingly diverse – population will have on facility and park usage and design requirements;
- suggesting opportunities to improve existing facilities, in keeping with evolving community needs; and
- noting policy considerations aimed at improving the acquisition, development, and delivery of parks, recreation, culture and library services.

Questions and Implications for the Official Plan

There are a number of important questions related to parks, recreation, culture and libraries that should be considered as part of the Vaughan Official Plan. These include:

- The City is growing rapidly and there is a continual need to provide parks and facilities in order to maintain appropriate levels of service. The Master Plan has identified the need for several indoor and outdoor facilities, many of which will be required to serve new residents. Potential sites for these facilities need to be identified to ensure that parks, recreation, culture and library services are equitably distributed throughout the City and to provide clarity to future land use patterns.
- Over time, population densities will increase and greater demands will be placed on resources such as parks and leisure facilities. How can the Official Plan address competing demands on land assets in areas of residential intensification while still providing sufficient space for the physical activity, social interaction, and personal development opportunities that parks and facilities provide?
- Parks can create value in commercial and industrial areas and provide recreational opportunities to employees. To what degree should the parkland provisions (as outlined in the ‘Active Together’ Master Plan) be achieved in all industrial and commercial areas?
- Trails are valued components of the City’s open space network as they help to connect people to places of interest, for both recreational and commuter purposes. Expansion of the City’s trails network is a high priority for the public and City staff. How can the Official Plan contribute to the establishment of a linked trail system and the creation of a “walkable community”?
- Opportunities for arts, cultural, and heritage appreciation are integral to maintaining a healthy and prosperous community. How can the Official Plan preserve local arts, culture, and heritage resources and contribute to the growth of a more “creative” city?

Parks, Recreation, Culture & Libraries



Parks, recreation, culture, and libraries are at the very core of those elements that define the City’s quality of life. The City invests in these areas because of the many social, physical, cultural, and economic benefits derived from civic participation and to assist in building healthy communities. Some potential benefits include:

- promoting active living and the healthy physical, social, and educational development of all ages
- creating social integration opportunities for people of all ages, including new Canadians, at-risk populations, persons with disabilities, families, and neighbourhoods
- enhancing awareness and appreciation of the environment
- encouraging lifelong learning and information

sharing • contributing to economic development.

In the last few years the City has made extensive improvements to its recreational and library infrastructure, including the development of the Vellore Village Community Centre, Pierre Berton Resource Library, and Vaughan Grove Sports Park, to name a few. Planning is also underway for several new parks, a community centre in Carrville, and the Civic Centre library. The City has seen registration in its recreational programs climb to over 140,000 a year, while more than 80,000 participate in library programs – and these numbers are growing every year!

Please visit the project website www.vaughtantomorrow.ca for updates and more information.

Vaughan Tomorrow

The City of Vaughan is undertaking an ambitious three-year project to create a new Official Plan. The Official Plan is part of Vaughan's integrated Growth Management Strategy. It will address all elements of effective, sustainable and successful city-building while managing projected growth over the next 25 years.

What is the "Active Together" Master Plan?

As directed by Vaughan Vision 2020 (the City's Strategic Plan), the Community Services Commission and the Vaughan Public Libraries began preparations for the development of a Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries Master Plan in 2006. This Master Plan "Active Together" - identifies active and passive recreational opportunities within the City of Vaughan. It is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2008 and will form an integral background component and be incorporated into the City's new Official Plan and related initiatives.

The "Active Together" Master Plan is an integrated long-term strategy that guides planning for parks, recreation, culture and

library facilities and services until the City's ultimate build-out. The Plan seeks to understand the considerable changes that have taken place in Vaughan in past years and proactively respond to the anticipated future needs of both established and new growth areas.

A Physical Activity Strategy has also been prepared concurrently with the Master Plan, the purpose of which is to foster higher levels of physical activity by Vaughan residents through various actions that seek to remove barriers to participation.



VELLORE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Public Consultation Findings

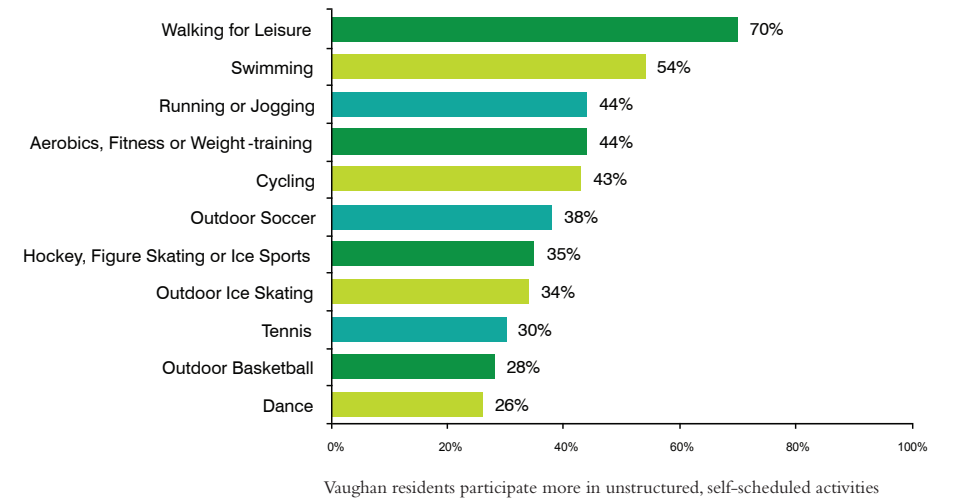


Extensive consultation was integral component to identifying and prioritizing current community needs. The public participation program consisted of the following events:

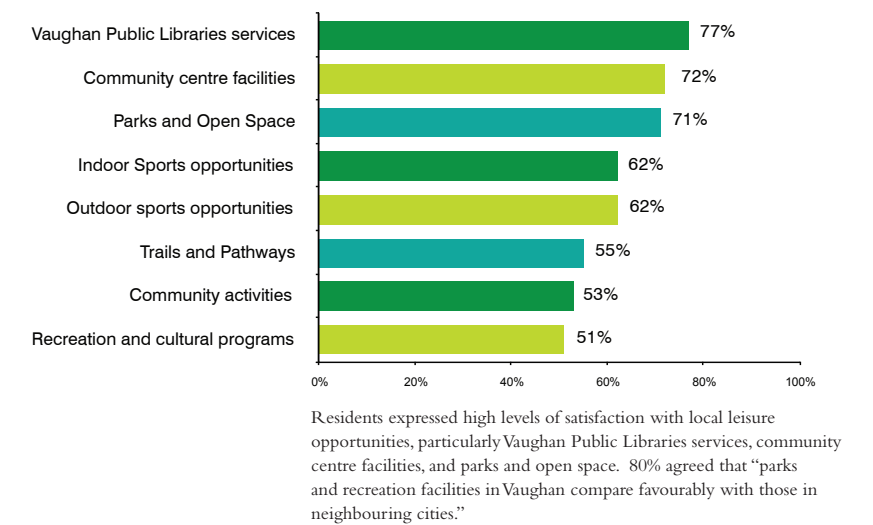
- two initial community workshops
- random household telephone survey
- website postings
- community group surveys/interviews
- Arts/Culture/Heritage workshops
- Senior Association (SAVI) workshop
- Senior Management and Staff workshops
- consultation with Library Board and staff
- Mayor and members of Council interviews
- public open house to identifying and prioritizing current community needs.

The generally high satisfaction levels expressed by the public are understandable considering the excellent overall number and quality of parks and facilities provided in Vaughan. Compared to many other communities across the province, the City has set high standards for the provision of amenities (such as open space, parkland, community centres, arenas, and playing fields) and has largely been successful in attaining these targets. Due to the City's rapid population growth, deficiencies are only now starting to be seen in some areas, including (but not necessarily limited to) library space, senior soccer fields, and skateboard parks. Maintaining appropriate standards for park and facility provision in growing neighbourhoods will be a key goal of the City over the coming years.

Most Popular Recreation & Leisure Activities



Level of Satisfaction with Variety and Quality of Local Opportunities



Highest Priorities for Improved/Expanded Facilities

